

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 SSM-03

SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 /083 W

----- 009408

R 160953Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9584

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 6210

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN SECURITY REPORTEDLY EXECUTES 31 PALESTINIANS

1. ACCORDING TO REGULAR EMBASSY SOURCE, SYRIAN SECURITY AUTHORITIES WERE LAST WEEK LED BY AN INFORMER TO MASS GRAVE BETWEEN THE GHOUTA VILLAGES OF SAQBA DN HAMMBOURI, NEAR DAMASCUS, CONTAINING BODIES OF OVER 200 MURDERED SYRIANS AND LEBANESE. FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY UNIT, UNDER COMMAND OF PRESIDENT'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, MAJOR ADNAN MAKHLUF, 31 PALESTINIANS WERE ARRESTED AND EXECUTED LAST WEEKEND. SOURCE'S INFORMATION CAME FROM PHOTOGRAPHER WHO FILMED EXECUTIONS ON BEHALF OF SYRIAN AUTHORITIES. SOURCE STATED HE UNDERSTOOD PALESTINIANS WERE HABBASH SYMPATHIZERS BUT COULD NOT GIVE POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION.

2. COMMENT: IT IS UNLIKELY EMBASSY WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION OF THIS GRISLY ACCOUNT. THE PAST YEAR OF KIDNAPPINGS AND UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES IN THE LEBANON COULD EASILY ACCOUNT FOR THE NUMBER
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REPORTEDLY INVOLVED. AT THE SAME TIME CURRENT SYRIAN-

PALESTINIAN DIFFERENCES HAVE BROUGHT OUT LATENT ANTI-
PALESTINIAN FEELINGS AMONG ELEMENTS OF SYRIAN POPULACE,
WHICH COULD LEAD TO EXAGGERATION OF REPORTS OF PALESTINIAN
ATROCITIES SUCH AS ABOVE.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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